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10/601,528	06/24/2003	**Shigeki Matsunaga**	2003_0869A	9933

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/601,528	MATSUNAGA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SATWANT K. SINGH	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 February 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-14 and 16-38* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-14 and 16-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 June 2003* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the office action filed on 14 February 2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 12, 16, 22, 26, and 29-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lahey et al (US 6,587,217).

5. Regarding Claim 29, Lahey et al discloses a print data generating apparatus for generating print data files so that a printing apparatus may print a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files described in different formats(a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), said print data generating apparatus comprising an archiving unit operable to archive the plurality of the print data files into a file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after the printing apparatus changes a name

of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

6. Regarding Claim 30, Lahey et al discloses a print data generating apparatus for generating print data files so that a printing apparatus may print a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), said print data generating apparatus comprising an archiving unit operable to archive one print data file of the plurality of the print data files in a specified position in an archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the one print data file being a Top Page print data wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket

maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11,22-25, 31,33, 35, and 37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parry (US 2003/0095284) in view of Lahey et al (US 6,587,217).

9. Regarding Claim 1, Parry teaches a print data providing apparatus for providing an external device with a print document consisting of a plurality of print data files (program files) (page 1, paragraph [0012]), the print data providing apparatus comprising: an archiving unit operable to archive the plurality of the print data files into a file (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); and an output unit (imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N) operable to output the archived file to the external device (source transfers

one or mores jobs to one or more imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N for job processing) (page 2, paragraph [0015]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats and wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files into the archived file after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20) and wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files into the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-

52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

10. Regarding Claim 3, Parry teaches a print data providing apparatus for providing an external device with a print document consisting of a plurality of print data files (program files) (page 1, paragraph [0012]), the print data providing apparatus comprising: an archiving unit operable to archive the plurality of the print data files into a file (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); and an output unit (imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N) operable to output the archived file to the external device (source transfers one or mores jobs to one or more imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N for job processing) (page 2, paragraph [0015.

Parry fails to teach an apparatus wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats and wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data file in a specified position in the archived file, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page

print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20) and wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data file in a specified position in the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to store the print job in an appropriate directory/location.

11. Regarding Claim 4, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said output unit transmits to the external device information on a format of the archived file and a format

of the print data files that are archived into the archived file (file translated into print-ready format) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

12. Regarding Claim 5, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files in a Tar Ball format (tar files retain the owner/group name and permissions for each file with a tar ball) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

13. Regarding Claim 7, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files in a compressed format (WinZip compresses the files that are archived) (page 2, paragraph [0016]).

14. Regarding Claim 8, Parry teaches an apparatus, further comprising: a receiving unit operable to receive the plurality of the print data files via a transmission line (source transfers one or more jobs to one or more imaging devices) (page 2, paragraph [0015]); and a first determination unit operable to determine whether or not the received plurality of the print data files compose a single print document (archive files contain one or more print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]) wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files into the archived file when it is determined that the plurality of the print data files compose the print document as a result of the determination by said first determination unit (WinZip enables creation of an archive file) (page 2, paragraph [0016]).

15. Regarding Claim 9, Parry teaches an apparatus, further comprising: a receiving unit operable to receive the plurality of the print data files via a transmission line (source transfers one or more jobs to one or more imaging devices) (page 2, paragraph [0015]);

a first determination unit operable to determine whether or not the received plurality of the print data files compose a single print document (archive files contain one or more print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and a second determination unit operable to determine whether or not the received print data files is archive data (processor recognizes the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]), wherein said archiving unit archives the print data files into the archived file when said second determination unit determines that the print data files are not archive data (WinZip enables creation of an archive file) (page 2, paragraph [0016]) and said first determination unit determines that the print data files are a plurality of print data files composing a single print document (decompressing each file of the received archive files) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

16. Regarding Clam 10, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein the external device is a printing apparatus connected to said print data providing apparatus via a transmission line, and said output unit transmits the archived file to the printing apparatus (imaging device is coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0013]).

17. Regarding Claim 11, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein the external device is a removable storage medium mounted on said print data providing apparatus (storage device comprises magnetic media, optical media or the like) (page 2, paragraph [0014]).

18. Regarding Claim 22, Parry teaches a printing apparatus for acquiring a print document from a print data providing apparatus connected to said printing apparatus via a transmission line (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for

processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), and for printing the acquired print document, said printing apparatus comprising: an acquisition unit operable to acquire an archived file from the print data providing apparatus, the archived file being an archive of a plurality of print data files, the plurality of the print data files composing a print document (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); an expansion unit operable to expand the acquired archived file into each of the plurality of the print data files (decompressing each of the received archive files into separate print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and a print unit operable to print a print document, the print document being a combination of each of the expanded print data files (imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N adapted to receive jobs for processing) (page 2, paragraph [0014]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus wherein the plurality of the print data files are archived in the archived file after a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files is changed to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by said printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein said printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references..

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus wherein the plurality of the print data files are archived in the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print

data files is changed to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by said printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein said printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

19. Regarding Claim 23, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said print unit further includes an analysis unit operable to analyze the one specified print data file after expanding the archived file into the expanded print data files, and to combine each of the expanded print data files so that a print picture presented by each of the expanded print data files may compose a single print document (tar files retain the owner/group name and permissions for each file with a tar ball) (page 2, paragraph [0017]), and wherein said print unit is operable to print each of the expanded print data files

according to the combination made by said analysis unit (transferring one or more print jobs to an appropriate directory based on file type) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

20. Regarding Claim 24, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said analysis unit analyzes the one print data file of the expanded print data files, the one print data file having the specified name, and combines each of the expanded print data files (transferring one or more print jobs to an appropriate directory based on file type) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

21. Regarding Claim 25, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said analysis unit analyzes the one print data file of the expanded print data files, and combines each of the expanded print data files, the one print data file being archived in a specified position in the archived file (transferring one or more print jobs to an appropriate directory based on file type) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

22. Regarding Claim 31, Parry teaches a print system comprising a print data providing apparatus and a printing apparatus mutually connected via a transmission line, wherein the print data providing apparatus includes: an archiving unit operable to archive a plurality of print data files into an archive file, the plurality of the print data files composing a print document (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); and a transmission unit operable to transmit the archived file to the printing apparatus (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), wherein the printing apparatus includes: an acquisition unit operable to acquire, from the print data providing apparatus, the archived file (jobs transferred from source) (page 2, paragraph [0016]) being an archive

of the plurality of the print data files, the plurality of the print data files composing the print document (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); an expansion unit operable to expand the acquired archived file into each of the plurality of the print data files (decompressing each of the received archive files into separate print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and a print unit operable to print the print document, the print document being a combination of each of the expanded print data files (imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N adapted to receive jobs for processing) (page 2, paragraph [0014]).

Parry fails to teach a system wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats and wherein the archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files into the archived file after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references..

Lahey et al teaches a system wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20) and wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files into the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save

as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

23. Regarding Claim 33, Parry teaches a print data transmission method for a print system comprising a print data providing apparatus and a printing apparatus mutually connected via a transmission line, wherein the print data providing apparatus performs the steps of: archiving a plurality of print data files into an archived file, the plurality of the print data files composing a print document (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); and transmitting the archived file to the printing apparatus (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), wherein the printing apparatus performs the steps of: acquiring, from the print data providing apparatus, the archived file being an archive of the plurality

of the print data files (jobs transferred from source) (page 2, paragraph [0016]), the plurality of the print data files composing a print document (archive file) (page 2, paragraphs [0016]); expanding the acquired archived file into each of the print data files (decompressing each of the received archive files into separate print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and printing the print document being a combination of each of the expanded print data files -(imaging devices 110-1 to 110-N adapted to receive jobs for processing) (page 2, paragraph [0014]).

Parry fails to teach a method wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats and wherein the archiving step comprises archiving the plurality of the print data files into the archived file after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches a method wherein the plurality of print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20)and wherein the archiving step comprises archiving the plurality of the print data files into the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top

Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

24. Regarding Claim 35, Parry teaches a computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing a print data providing apparatus to execute a method for providing an external device with a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files, the method comprising: archiving the plurality of the print data files into an archived file (archive file) (page 2, paragraph [0016]); and outputting the archived file to the external device (source transfers one or more jobs to one or more imaging devices for job processing) (page 2, paragraph [0015]).

Parry fails to teach a method where the print data files are described in different formats and wherein said archiving comprises archiving the plurality of the print data files into the archived file after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print

data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references.

Lahey et al teaches a method where the print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20) and wherein said archiving comprises archiving the plurality of the print data files into the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after changing a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by a printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

25. Regarding Claim 37, Parry teaches a computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing a printing apparatus to execute a method for acquiring a print document from a print data providing apparatus connected to the printing apparatus via a transmission line (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), and for printing the acquired document, the method comprising: acquiring, from the print data providing apparatus, an archived file being an archive of a plurality of print data files, the plurality of the print data files composing a print document ((archive file) (page 2, paragraph [0016]); expanding the acquired archived file into each of the plurality of the print data files (decompressing each of the received archive files into separate print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and printing the print document being a combination of each of the expanded print data files (imaging devices adapted to receive jobs for processing) (page 2, paragraph [0014]).

Parry fails to teach a method wherein the print data files are described in different formats and wherein the plurality of the print data files are archived into the archived file after a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files is changed to a specified name, the one print data file being a Top Page print data file, wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, and wherein the

printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references.

Lahey et al teaches a method wherein the print data files are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20) and wherein the plurality of the print data files are archived into the archived file (Fig. 14 block 166-172, has user requested to archive job ticket) (col. 14, lines 18-31) after a name of one print data file of the plurality of the print data files is changed to a specified name (Fig. 8, Save as) (col. 8, lines 60-67, col. 9, lines 1-13), the one print data file being a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the Top Page print data file is a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), and wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

26. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parry and Lahey et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Agranat et al. (US 6,456,308).

27. Regarding Claim 6, Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach a print data providing apparatus, wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files a MIME format.

Agranat et al teaches an apparatus, wherein said archiving unit archives the plurality of the print data files a MIME format MIME are a standardized way for describing the content of messages that are passed over a network) (col7, lines 42-55).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teachings of Agranat to archive email files.

28. Claims 12-14, 16-21, 26-28, 32, 34, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parry and Lahey et al. in view of Nakatsuma et al. (US 6,115,132).

29. Regarding Claim 12, Parry teaches a print data providing apparatus (source 160) for providing a printing apparatus (imaging device 101) connected to said print data providing apparatus via a transmission line with a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files to be transmitted are the print data files composing the print document (the

processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file, the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or

more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65), and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach an apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit operable to sequentially transmit to the printing apparatus.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit operable to sequentially transmit to the printing apparatus (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54), wherein said sequential transmission unit transmits sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document (sequential order control means control the print sequential order) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide sequential outputting of different types of print data to prevent the mixing of print data from different clients.

30. Regarding Claim 13, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein the information is attached to one print data file to be transmitted first, of the plurality of the print data files to be transmitted (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

31. Regarding Claim 14, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein the information contains information on a format of the plurality of the print data files to be transmitted (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]) and a method of push transmitting the plurality of the print data files to the printing apparatus (additional processing includes transmitting the files, storing the files in a designated directory, notifying an administrator of the receipt of the files or the like)) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

32. Regarding Claim 16, Parry teaches a print data providing apparatus (source 160) for providing a printing apparatus (imaging device 101) connected to said print data providing apparatus via a transmission line with a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files to be transmitted are the print data files composing the print document (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional

information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52),, the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65)..

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach a print data providing apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit operable to sequentially transmit to the printing apparatus wherein said sequential transmission unit transmits the plurality of the print data files accompanied by a flag indicating a completion of the transmission, the flag being attached to one print data file to be transmitted to the printing apparatus last out of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit operable to sequentially transmit to the printing apparatus (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54) wherein said sequential transmission unit transmits the plurality of the print data files accompanied by a flag indicating a completion of the transmission, the flag being attached to one print data file to be transmitted to the printing apparatus last out of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document (completed print operation notified by the notifying means) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma et al. to provide notification that the sequential printing has been completed.

33. Regarding Claim 17, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said sequential transmission unit sequentially transmits the plurality of the print data files accompanied

by information indicating a format of one print data file that is presently transmitted, of the plurality of the print data files (processor uses the file name, file extension, heard information, file format, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

34. Regarding Claim 18, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said sequential transmission unit sequentially transmits the plurality of the print data files with a data name presenting a format of each of the plurality of the print data files (processor uses the file name, file extension, heard information, file format, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

35. Regarding Claim 19, Parry teaches an apparatus wherein said sequential transmission unit sequentially transmits the plurality of the print data files accompanied by a header indicating a format of each of the plurality of the print data files (processor uses the file name, file extension, heard information, file format, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

36. Regarding Claim 20, Parry teaches an apparatus, wherein said sequential transmission unit firstly transmits one print data file of the plurality of the print data files, the one print data file being required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (each file translated into a print ready format with any associated permissions attached) (page 2, paragraphs [0017]-[0018]).

37. Regarding Claim 21, Parry teaches an apparatus further comprising: a receiving unit operable to receive the plurality of the print data files via the transmission line (source transfers one or more jobs to one or more imaging devices) (page 2, paragraph

[0015]); and a determination unit operable to determine whether or not the received plurality of the print data files compose the print document (archive files contain one or more print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0017]), accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files are the print data files composing the print document when it is determined that said plurality of the print data files compose the print document as a result of the determination by said determination unit (processor uses the file name, file extension, heard information, file format, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach an apparatus wherein the sequential transmission unit sequentially transmits the plurality of the print data files, to the printing apparatus

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus wherein the sequential transmission unit sequentially transmits the plurality of the print data files, to the printing apparatus (print sequential order in accordance with the job information) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide sequential outputting of print data to prevent the mixing of print data from different clients.

38. Regarding Claim 26, Parry teaches a printing apparatus for acquiring a print document from a print data providing apparatus connected to said printing apparatus via a transmission line, and for printing the acquired print document (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and

2, paragraph [0013]), wherein the print document is comprised of a plurality of print data files, and said printing apparatus comprises: an acquisition unit operable to acquire, from the print data providing apparatus, the plurality of the print data files (source transfers files to one or more imaging devices using file transfer protocol) (page 2, paragraph [0015]) accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files compose the print document (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and print the print document, the print document being a combination of each of the acquired print data files (each translated file is processed based on one or more user-defined operations which could include printing the print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL

file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65), and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach an apparatus comprising: a sequential acquisition unit operable to sequentially acquire, from the print data providing apparatus, the plurality of the print data files; and a print unit operable to detect, based on the information, that the acquisition of said plurality of the print data files composing the single print document is complete.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus comprising: a sequential acquisition unit operable to sequentially acquire, from the print data providing apparatus, the plurality of the print data files (sequential order control means); and a print unit operable to detect, based on the information, that the acquisition of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document is complete (print data can be transmitted to the printer) (col. 28, lines 36-54), wherein said sequential acquisition unit sequentially acquires the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the print data files composing the print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document (print sequential order in accordance with the job information) (col. 28, lines 36-54)..

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide notification that the sequential printing of a client has been completed.

39. Regarding Claim 27, Parry and Lahey fail to teach an apparatus wherein said print unit detects, based on the information, that the acquisition of the total number of the print data files is complete, and prints the print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus wherein said print unit detects, based on the information, that the acquisition of the total number of the print data files is complete, and prints the print document (transferring transmission enabled information) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma et al. to provide notification that the sequential printing of a client has been completed.

40. Regarding Claim 28, Parry and Lahey fail to teach an apparatus wherein said sequential acquisition unit acquires the plurality of the print data files composing the print document accompanied by a flag indicating a completion of a transmission of the plurality of the print data files, and said print unit detects that the acquisition of the print data files is complete based on the flag, and prints the print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus wherein said sequential acquisition unit acquires the plurality of the print data files composing the print document accompanied by a flag indicating a completion of a transmission of the plurality of the print data files, and said print unit detects that the acquisition of the print data files is complete based on the flag, and prints the print document (transferring transmission enabled information) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma et al. to provide notification that the sequential printing of a client has been completed.

41. Regarding Claim 32, Parry teaches a print system comprising a print data providing apparatus and a printing apparatus mutually connected via a transmission line, wherein the print data providing apparatus includes: a transmission unit operable to

transmit, to the printing apparatus (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0012]), a plurality of print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files to be transmitted compose a single print document (WinZip file) (page 2, paragraph [0016]), wherein the printing apparatus includes: a acquisition unit operable to acquire the plurality of print data files (archive files are transferred from source) accompanied by the information indicating that the plurality of the print data files compose a single print document (processor receives the file from sourced and recognizes the type of file received and then performs operations based on the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and a print unit operable to print the print document, the print document being a combination of each of the acquired print data files, after all of the plurality of the print data files composing a single print document are acquired (each translated file is processed based on one or more user-defined operations which could include printing the print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the

Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65), and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach an apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit and a sequential acquisition unit and wherein the sequential transmission unit transmits sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches an apparatus comprising a sequential transmission unit and a sequential acquisition unit (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54) wherein the sequential transmission unit transmits sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document (sequential order control means control the print sequential order) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide sequential outputting of print data to prevent the mixing of print data from different clients.

42. Regarding Claim 34, Parry teaches a print data transmission method for a print system comprising a print data providing apparatus and a printing apparatus mutually connected via a transmission line (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0013]), wherein the print data providing apparatus performs a transmission step of sequentially

transmitting, to the printing apparatus, a plurality of print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of print data files to be transmitted compose a single print document (source transfers files to one or more imaging devices using file transfer protocol) (page 2, paragraph [0015]), and the printing apparatus performs the steps of: acquiring, from the print data providing apparatus (source transfers files to one or more imaging devices using file transfer protocol) (page 2, paragraph [0015]), the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files compose a single print document (processor receives the files form source) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); printing the print document, the print document being a combination of each of the acquired print data files, after all of the plurality of the print data files composing a single document are acquired (each translated file is processed based on one or more user defined operations) (page 2, paragraph [0018]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top

Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file, the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65)..

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach a method comprising sequentially transmitting and sequentially acquiring the print data, and wherein the sequential transmission step comprises transmitting sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print wherein the sequential

transmission step comprises transmitting sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print

Nakatsuma et al teaches a method comprising sequentially transmitting and sequentially acquiring the print data (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54), and wherein the sequential transmission step comprises transmitting sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print wherein the sequential transmission step comprises transmitting sequentially the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print (sequential order control means control the print sequential order) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide sequential outputting of print data to prevent the mixing of print data from different clients.

43. Regarding Claim 36, Parry teaches a computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing a data providing apparatus to perform a method for providing an external device with a print document comprised of a plurality of print data files, said plurality of the print data files accompanied by information indicating that said plurality of the print data files to be transmitted compose the print document (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file format, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]).

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file, the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more

document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65)..

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach a method comprising a sequential transmission step of sequentially transmitting, to the external device, wherein said sequential transmission step comprises sequentially transmitting the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the print data files composing the print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches a method comprising a sequential transmission step of sequentially transmitting (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54), to the external device, wherein said sequential transmission step comprises sequentially transmitting the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information on a total number of the print data files composing the print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the print document (sequential order control means control the print sequential order) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide sequential outputting of print data to prevent the mixing of print data from different clients.

44. Regarding Claim 38, Parry teaches a computer-readable medium having program stored thereon for causing a printing apparatus to execute a method for acquiring a print document from a print data providing apparatus connected to the printing apparatus via a transmission line, and for printing the acquired print document (imaging devices are coupled to a source that presents jobs for processing to imaging devices) (pages 1 and 2, paragraph [0013]), wherein the print document comprises a plurality of print data files, the method comprising: acquiring, from the print data providing apparatus, the plurality of the print data files accompanied by information indicating that the plurality of the print data files compose a single print document (the processor uses the file name, file extension, header information, file form, additional information provided with the file, or the like to recognize the type of file received) (page 2, paragraph [0017]); and printing the print document being a combination of each of the acquired print data files (each translated file is processed based on one or more user-defined operations which could include printing the print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0018].

Parry fails to teach an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats, wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file (job ticket) (col. 5, lines 50-52), the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document (job ticket maintains information on print attributes and the location of the print files which comprise the print job) (col. 5, lines 50-52), wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data

obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files.

Lahey et al teaches an apparatus where the documents are described in different formats (a file item is a print image file, such as a TIFF, PostScript, RIP, PDF, or PCL file) (col. 6, lines 13-20), wherein one of the plurality of print data files is a Top Page print data file, the Top Page print data file being a predetermined print data file in the print document which is firstly required by the printing apparatus in order to print the print document, wherein the printing apparatus interprets the Top Page print data file and places bit map data obtained by rasterization based on data of each of the print data files that the Top Page print data file references, and wherein the printing apparatus is able to identify the Top Page print data file on a basis of the transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files (within each job ticket are also one or more document records, the document records include all the information needed to print a document included in the print job) (col. 5, lines 60-65)..

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry with the teaching of Lahey to allow archiving and printing of modified files.

Parry and Lahey et al fail to teach a method comprising: acquiring sequentially, the plurality of the print data files; and detecting, based on the information that the acquisition of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document is

complete, wherein the plurality of the print data files acquired sequentially from the print data providing apparatus are accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document.

Nakatsuma et al teaches a method comprising: acquiring sequentially, the plurality of the print data files (sequential order control means) (col. 28, lines 36-54); and detecting, based on the information that the acquisition of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document is complete (transferring transmission enabled information) (col. 28, lines 36-54), wherein the plurality of the print data files acquired sequentially from the print data providing apparatus are accompanied by information on a total number of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document and a transmitting order of the plurality of the print data files composing the single print document (sequential order control means control the print sequential order) (col. 28, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Parry and Lahey with the teaching of Nakatsuma to provide notification that the sequential printing of a client has been completed.

Conclusion

45. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SATWANT K. SINGH whose telephone number is (571)272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Sks

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